

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: September 23, 2011
Received: September 21, 2011
Status: Pending_Post
Tracking No. 80f268fd
Comments Due: September 30, 2011
Submission Type: Web

Docket: EBSA-2010-0018

Interim Final Rules for Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers Relating to Coverage of Preventive Services Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

Comment On: EBSA-2010-0018-0002

Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers Relating to Coverage of Preventive Services under Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: Amendment

Document: EBSA-2010-0018-DRAFT-0186

Comment on FR Doc # 2011-19684

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General Comment

Dear Secretary Sebelius,

On August 1, 2011, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that certain preventative health services for women must be included by insurers and employers providing health insurance. Among these benefits are contraceptive methods and counseling. HHS also included a narrowly defined exemption to the contraceptive coverage for "religious employers."

I encourage you to preserve the entire requirement for contraceptive methods and counseling be included in the new regulations. Allowing anything else means that countless women would be left without preventative health coverage because of who their employer is, not because of their own religious beliefs. Individuals women should be allowed to exercise their own beliefs by availing themselves to the services or not.

Please help us fight religious discrimination in law that disadvantages these women from receiving preventative health services from employers based on the employers' religious beliefs, not their own beliefs.

Thank you,
Lori Plazinski